

Zoning Board of Appeals

From: Elizabeth Joakim <elizabethjoakim@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 24, 2022 9:11 AM
To: zba@westtisbury-ma.gov
Cc: 2 Matthew Joakim
Subject: Joakim comments for February 24, 2022 ZBA Meeting

Dear ZBA Committee,

Let me start by thanking you for taking the time to do the site visit at my back property at 62/62A property Skiffs Lane. I am the owner of that property, Elizabeth "Betsey" Joakim, and I would like to make some comments to accompany the three slides that my son, Matthew, put together for this ZBA meeting.

In the past few weeks, I have received some excellent advice from several reliable sources as I attempt to restore tranquility to my back property line.

Replacing the privacy that was lost by removing 30-40 established trees, especially oak trees, is a major challenge. Now I am facing a pool installation very close to my back deck.

Having arborvitae planted (at the Wallace's expense), notably the fast growing "Green Giant" with protective deer fencing, appears to be a solution to this unfortunate loss of trees and personal privacy.

Arborvitae are best planted in the Spring, as this helps to insure that they get well established, and grow into a successful sound and light barrier.

Slide one specifically details a proposal, using arborvitae, to overcome the visual and auditory distractions that even now greatly interfere with the enjoyment of my back house and property.

Slide two shows the results of maintaining arborvitae properly after using a 'staggered planting' design: a wonderful, effective 'green barrier' between the Joakim and Wallace property. WIN-WIN!

Slide three is truly a retro snapshot of the early beginnings of Skiffs Lane and the Joakim guest house existence.

It's exact location was specifically chosen by my late husband, a civ engineer, respecting the various groves of oak trees on the Joakim property. The Otis Bassett land was also very thick with oak trees of various sizes and shapes ... and that photo was taken over three decades ago.

I would actually kid my husband, back in the day, that he must have been a DRUID in his former life (from the Greek word "drus" for oak) as those Celts considered oak trees very sacred, possessing "oak knowledge" or wisdom.

(Druid men and women were of equal status ~ so maybe I'm the former Druid, as the recent cutting of those very old Wallace oak trees left me heartsick!)

Mike considered himself just a good, but temporary, steward of our WT land, respecting all forms of nature on our two acres. He continually setting up bird house, bird feeders, and even a bat house making nature come alive for our growing family.

I would like to keep this philosophy of total respect for nature's beauty 'on going' for my children sake.

On another topic of concern, I still have a problem with the "bunk house"/old shed that is too close to my back guest house. It has NOT had one single day of being legitimate, per a 2010 sketch Joe Tierney recently shared with me. In my opinion, it should be definitely moved, or even taken down, maybe enlarging your newly proposed shed. Perhaps let that new shed contain the equipment for your heated pool, be made soundproof, and address the possible need for chimney ventilation within a new design.

I'm closing my remarks with the knowledge that the ZBA Committee, with its continued respect for all West Tisbury citizens, will successfully and diplomatically bridge neighbors with often very opposing points of view.

Best regards,
Elizabeth K Joakim